IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2-5, 12, 14-17, 31 and 35 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 11, 18 and 36 and add new Claim 37 as follows.

1.   (Currently Amended) An information processing method for maintaining, in a system in which each of a plurality of client processes connected via an information transmission medium holds and uses shared data to be shared by the plurality of client processes, consistency of shared data held by the respective plurality of client processes, comprising:

in input step of inputting a manipulation request;

a determining step of determining a mode corresponding to the input manipulation request, from a plurality of modes including a first mode and a second mode; and

a processing step of executing a process corresponding to the manipulation request in accordance with the mode determined in the determining step,

wherein the processing step includes:

an output a sending step of outputting sending, when [[a]] the manipulation request for requests a manipulation of the shared data is generated, request information that represents the manipulation request onto the information transmission medium to a server process;

a reception step of receiving response information corresponding to the request information ~~output~~ sent in the ~~output~~ sending step, from the server process ~~and response information corresponding to request information output by other processes from the information transmission medium~~; and

a manipulation execution step of executing a manipulation for the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request ~~indicated by~~ or the response information received in the reception step,

and wherein, in a case where the determining step determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request input in the input step is the first mode, the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data in response to the manipulation request and the sending step sends the request information indicating the manipulation request to the server process,

and wherein, in a case where the determining step determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request input in the input step is the second mode,

the sending step sends the request information indicating the manipulation request to the server process in response to the manipulation request, and

the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data based on the manipulation request indicated by the reception information in response to reception of the reception information when the reception information is received from the server process within a time limit of manipulation execution, and

the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request corresponding to the request information when the reception information is not received from the server process within a time limit of manipulation execution.

Claims 2-5.   (Cancelled).

6.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein the shared data consists of a plurality of items, each of which contains designation information used to designate [[a]] an update mode to be adopted.

7.   (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising a switching step of switching the update mode for each of the plurality of items.

8.   (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the switching step includes a step of providing a user interface that allows a user to select an object display corresponding to a desired item and to designate a desired update mode.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein [[a]] an update mode switching result in the switching step is reflected on the shared data of the plurality of clients client processes.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein [[a]]
an update mode switching result in the switching step is reflected on the shared data of a client of
interest.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[5]] 1, further
comprising a setting step of setting the ~~predetermined period of~~ time limit of manipulation
execution.

Claim 12.   (Cancelled).

13.   (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the switching
step includes a step of setting the update mode in accordance with manipulation contents for an
object corresponding to an item.

Claims 14-17.   (Cancelled).

18.   (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for
maintaining, in a system in which each of a plurality of client processes connected via an
information transmission medium holds and uses shared data to be shared by the plurality of
client processes, consistency of shared data held by the respective plurality of client processes,
comprising:

an input configured to input a manipulation request;

a determining unit configured to determine a mode corresponding to the input manipulation request, from a plurality of modes including a first mode and a second mode; and

a processing unit configured to execute a process corresponding to the manipulation request in accordance with the mode determined in the determining unit,

wherein the processing unit includes:

~~an output~~ a sending unit configured to, when [[a]] the manipulation request ~~for~~ requests a manipulation of the shared data ~~is generated~~, ~~output~~ send request information that represents the manipulation request ~~onto the information transmission medium~~ to a server process;

a reception unit configured to receive response information corresponding to the request information ~~output~~ sent by said ~~output~~ sending unit, from the server process ~~and response information corresponding to request information output by other processes from the information transmission medium~~; and

a manipulation execution unit configured to execute a manipulation for the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request ~~indicated by~~ or the response information received in said reception unit,

and wherein, in a case where said determining unit determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request input by said input unit is the first mode, said manipulation execution unit manipulates the shared data in response to the manipulation request

and said sending unit sends the request information indicating the manipulation request to the server process,

and wherein, in a case where said determining unit determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request input by said input unit is the second mode,

said sending unit sends the request information indicating the manipulation request to the server process in response to the manipulation request, and

said manipulation execution unit manipulates the shared data based on the manipulation request indicated by the reception information in response to reception of the reception information when the reception information is received from the server process within a time limit of manipulation execution, and

said manipulation execution unit manipulates the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request corresponding to the request information when the reception information is not received from the server process within a time limit of manipulation execution.

Claims 19-35. (Cancelled).

36.   (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a control program for making a computer execute an the information processing method of claim 1.

37.   (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of modes include a third mode,

and wherein, in a case where the determining step determines that the mode corresponding to the manipulation request input in the input step is the third mode,

the sending step sends information request indicating the manipulation request to the server process in response to the manipulation request, and

the manipulation execution step manipulates the shared data in accordance with the manipulation request indicated by the response information in response to the reception of the response information.